



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/941,612	08/30/2001	Yoshinobu Aoyagi	1794-0141P	6758

2292 7590 08/02/2007
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

SONG, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1722

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

08/02/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/941,612	Applicant(s) AOYAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner Matthew J. Song	Art Unit 1722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 45-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/26/2007 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Newly submitted claims 45-48 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: An election with traverse to prosecute the method and withdraw the claims drawn to the apparatus and product had been previously made and affirmed by applicant, see the Non-final rejection filed on 11/8/2002 and the remarks filed 3/10/2003.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 45-48 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 1722

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa et al (US 5,693,139) in view of Edmond et al (US 5,739,554).

Nishizawa et al discloses a method of growing doped semiconductor monolayers, note entire reference, comprising raw material gases of Gallium (Ga) and Arsenic (As), where Ga is supplied for 0.5 to 10 seconds, the chamber is evacuated, this clearly suggests applicant's purged for a predetermined time, and As is supplied for 2 to 200 seconds and the cycle is repeated (col 7, ln 1-67; col 8, ln 1-30 and Fig 7B and Fig 11). Nishizawa et al also discloses a p-type layer is formed by introducing an impurity gases and Ga simultaneously but alternately with an As source, where the impurity gas is an Mg, Zn or Cd containing gas or Silane. Nishizawa et al also discloses a n-type layer doped with Se or S and the impurity gas is introduced cyclically with the

Art Unit: 1722

Ga gas and As gas or the impurity gas and Ga gas are introduced simultaneously but alternately with the As gas (col 8, ln 31-60). Nishizawa et al also discloses forming pnp bipolar transistors (col 8, ln 61-67). Nishizawa et al also discloses nozzles 44, 45 and 46 for introducing gaseous compounds used for impurity doping for introducing group II, IV and VI gases (col 10, ln 50-67). Nishizawa et al also discloses different modes of doping, where the dopant is added at the exhaustion of an As gas, the introduction of a Ga gas, the exhaustion of a Ga gas or at the introduction of As gas (col 11-13 and Fig 11). Nishizawa et al also discloses other III-V semiconductors are applicable to the invention (col 14, ln 5-55). Nishizawa et al also discloses introduction of a Ga source gas and a group II dopant simultaneously to form a p-type layer (col 8, ln 30-45) and the introduction of a group IV dopant after the introduction of a Ga source gas (col 15, ln 5-50). Nishizawa et al also discloses selection of the timing of doping with respect of the source gas introduction is based on the desired dopant type for the monolayer being grown (col 15, ln 45-55). Nishizawa et al teaches supplying reactants for a short period of time (col 11, ln 50-60), this clearly suggests applicants pulsed manner.

Nishizawa et al does not disclose the given time for supplying each of the impurity raw materials are close to each other.

Edmond et al teaches a gallium nitride (GaN) layer co-doped with both a Group II acceptor and Group IV donor (col 4, ln 50-67), where the group II acceptors include Zn or Mg and the Group IV donors include Si or Ge (col 6, ln 20-50), this clearly suggests applicant's time for supplying each of the impurity raw materials are close to each other. Edmond et al also discloses the GaN layer is formed by CVD, where Trimethylgallium (TMG), ammonia, silane and biscyclopentadienyl magnesium, (Cp)₂Mg are used as reactant gases (col 7, ln 45-67 and col

Art Unit: 1722

8, ln 1-50). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Nishizawa et al with Edmond et al's co-doping to form a co-doped GaN layer useful as an active layer (Abstract).

Referring to claim 37, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches supplying different doping types of impurity raw materials at close timings ('554 teaches co-doping) in a pulsed manner within one cycle wherein all types of the crystal raw materials are supplied in one time each in the case when plural types of the crystal raw material are alternately supplied in a pulsed manner with maintaining predetermined purge times ('139 Fig 11).

Referring to claims 38-39, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches co-doping using two different impurities, which clearly suggests applicant's close timing in a pulsed manner at the same time.

Referring to claim 40, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches forming a co-doped GaN layer using Mg and Si dopant, where the compound semiconductor layer is grown in monolayer by alternate introduction of source gases and the chamber being evacuated continuously throughout the whole method ('139 col 3, ln 35-45) and the Si is introduced after the Ga source gas to act as a donor and a Ga source and a Mg dopant are introduced simultaneously but alternately with a As source.

Referring to claim 41, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches the introduction of a group IV dopant after the introduction of Ga and prior to the introduction of As and the introduction of group II dopant after the introduction of Ga and prior to the introduction of As (col 13, ln 10-35 and Fig 11).

Art Unit: 1722

Referring to claim 42, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches Ga as a first raw material gas and As or N as a second raw material gas.

Referring to claim 43, the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches a co-doped layer with p-type and n-type impurities.

5. Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishizawa et al (US 5,693,139) in view of Edmond et al (US 5,739,554) as applied to claims 37-43 above, and further in view of Manabe et al (US 6,472,690).

The combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al teaches all of the limitations of claim 21, as discussed previously, including using silane as a Si dopant. The combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al does not teach supplying TESI

In a method of forming a gallium nitride compound semiconductor, note entire reference, Manabe et al teaches forming an n^+ type Gallium nitride layer, using silane or tetraethylsilane (TESi) (Example 4). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Nishizawa et al and Edmond et al with Manabe et al because substituting known equivalents for the same purpose is obvious (MPEP 2144.06).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/26/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments regarding the European Patent Office Action is noted but not found persuasive. First, it is noted that the claims are merely being submitted in response to the second office action in the European Patent application and have not been indicated allowable. Second, it is noted that actions taken by the European Patent Office do not bind the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Thirdly, the European Patent office has not used the same grounds of rejection in the instant application. Finally, the Board of Patent Appeal and Interferences has already determined that co-doping would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. There is nothing presented in the communication from and to the European Patent Office that would rebut that assertion.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., forming donor-acceptor complexes) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The claims merely requiring supplying impurities at close timings.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a hole concentration of $1\text{E}19/\text{cm}^3$ in GaN and a hole concentration of $5\text{E}18/\text{cm}^3$ in AlGaN) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). The claims merely requiring supplying impurities at close timings.

It is noted that the instantly filed claims are broader than the claims which were appealed to the Board of Patent Appeal and Interferences (BPAI). The Board affirmed the Examiner and concluded that the one of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to supply both the acceptor and donor impurities taught by Edmond in the manner taught by Nishizawa in Nishizawa's process, motivated by a reasonable expectation of successfully growing a layer having pn junctions useful for bipolar transistor structures (note page 11 of the Decision filed 4/27/2007). Therefore, under the same reasoning given by the BPAI, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

7. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however,

Art Unit: 1722

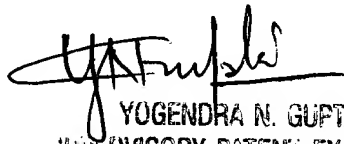
will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Song whose telephone number is 571-272-1468. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew J Song
Examiner
Art Unit 1722


YOGENDRA N. GUPTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

MJS
July 27, 2007